

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2, 3, and 7 will be pending of which claims 2 and 3 are independent. Claims 2 and 7 are amended; claims 1 and 4 are canceled. The applicants believe that no new matter is added as a result of these amendments.

The applicants respectfully entry of the foregoing amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Should the examiner maintain the final rejection, the amendments to the claims will place the application in better form for appeal. This response is timely filed within the shortened statutory period for response. Thus, the applicants believe that no fee is due.

Patentability Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 –

Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wolff *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,159,009). The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4 are canceled. Claims 2, 3, and 7 are directed to, *inter alia*, a carbon black having organic groups linked to the carbon black via at least one sulfide or polysulfide bridge, wherein the organic groups do not contain silicon. In contrast the carbon blacks of Wolff *et al.* are chemically modified by one or more organosilicons of general formulae $[R^1_n(RO)_{3-n}Si-(Alk)_m-(Ar)_p]_q[B]$, $R^1_n(RO)_{3-n}Si-(Alkyl)$, or $R^1_n(RO)_{3-n}Si-(Alkenyl)$. The modified carbon black formed (after the reaction) contain organosilicons bonded on the surface (column 1, lines 52-66). Therefore, Wolff *et al.*, describing carbon blacks all of which contain silicon cannot anticipate the carbon blacks of the claimed invention none of which contain silicon, and the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Mahmud *et al.* (WO 96/37547). The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As noted above, claims 1 and 4 are canceled and claims 2, 3, and 7 are directed to, *inter alia*, a carbon black having organic groups linked to the carbon black via at least one sulfide or polysulfide bridge, wherein the organic groups do not contain silicon. In contrast the carbon blacks of Mahmud *et al.* are silicon-treated carbon blacks (see title, abstract, and

all the examples). In other words, Mahmud *et al.* describe carbon blacks all of which contain silicon, in contrast with the carbon blacks of the claimed invention none of which contain silicon.

Furthermore, the carbon blacks of Mahmud *et al.* are silicon-treated carbon blacks that can react with amines. These amines are attached to the carbon black surface by a diazonium salt, which in turn is made by a reaction of the amine with NaNO₂ (see page 8, line 20 *et seq*). In other words, the amines are not linked by disulfide or polysulfide bridges, unlike the claimed invention. Even the 4-aminodiphenylsulfide described in Example 13 of Mahmud *et al.* (page 43) is not bound to the carbon black by a disulfide bridge (rather, it is bound by a diazonium bridge). Therefore, Mahmud *et al.* cannot anticipate the claimed invention and the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

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Application No.: 09/809,028
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0277112

III. CONCLUSION

The applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request a timely notice to that effect. Should questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

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